

Message Text

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44

ACTION ORM-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 DHA-02 VO-03 SCA-01

INSE-00 AID-05 IO-10 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03

PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 /081 W

----- 102439

R 181145Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO USMISSION GENEVA

SECSTATE WASHDC 5833

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY ROME

ZNE/USINT BAGHDAD

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ATHENS AND ROME FOR INS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, LE

SUBJECT: REFUGEES IN BEIRUT

REFS: A) GENEVA 6267; B) BEIRUT A-41, FEB. 19, 1975.

1. WE RECEIVED SIMILAR LETTER FROM USSR ARMENIANS AND HAVE REPLIED IN SYMPATHETIC BUT REALISTIC MANNER. OUR LETTER POINTS OUT THAT MANY OTHER REFUGEES HAVE BEEN WAITING MUCH LONGER AND THAT, IN THE INTEREST OF FAIR PLAY, EACH REFUGEE MUST WAIT HIS TURN.

2. IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT ESTIMATE HOW LONG DELAY REFUGEES MUST ANTICIPATE. WE NOW HAVE FAIRLY COMPLETE DATA FROM VOLAGS. FOLLOWING DATA BASED ON STATISTICS FROM WCC AS OF AUGUST 1, AND PONTIFICAL MISSION AS OF AUGUST 15.

3. STATUS PONTIFICAL

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MISSION WCC

USRP NON-USRP USRP NON-USRP
 ACCEPTED BY INS IN BEIRUT
 INTERVIEW, PENDING FINAL
 APPROVAL AND ALLOCATION
 VISA NUMBERS 3 73 236 198

ACCEPTED BY UNHCR BUT NOT
 YET INTERVIEWED BY INS IN
 BEIRUT - 307 463 1,500

REGISTERED WITH VOLAGS BUT
 NOT YET INTERVIEWED BY
 UNHCR - (6) - (91)

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF ABOVE
 REFUGEES WHO WILL BE
 ACCEPTED BY UNHCR AND INS - 3 - 55

TOTAL REFUGEES REQUIRING
 ALLOCATION OF VISA NUMBERS 3 383 699 1,755

TOTAL USRP REFUGEES : 702

TOTAL NON-USRP REFUGEES : 2,138

GRAND TOTAL, ALL REFUGEES REQUIRING VISA
 NUMBERS : 2,840

4. COMPARED WITH DATA PROVIDED REF B, TOTAL NUMBER OF
 REFUGEES MARGINALLY LESS. TOTAL NUMBER USRP REFUGEES IN
 PIPELINE HAS INCREASED, BUT NON-USRP REFUGEES DECREASED
 SIGNIFICANTLY. GREATEST VARIABLE IN ESTIMATING TOTAL
 DELAYS WILL BE RATE AT WHICH VISA NUMBERS ARE ALLOCATED.
 IF ALLOCATIONS CONTINUE AS THEY HAVE IN RECENT PAST, ALL
 REFUGEES NOW IN PIPELINE SHOULD HAVE VISAS WITHIN 14 TO
 18 MONTHS.

5. TOTAL DELAYS FOR NEWLY ARRIVING REFUGEES EVEN LESS
 CLEAR. WE ARE ENCOURAGED, HOWEVER, THAT FLOW OF NEW
 REFUGEES DOES NOT APPEAR EXCESSIVE. FOLLOWING IS CURRENT
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AVAILABLE DATA ON ARRIVAL RATE:

MONTH	PONTIFICAL MISSION	WCC
	USRP NON-USRP	USRP NON-USRP
FEBRUARY 1975	50 70	- 97
MARCH	44 76	- 79
APRIL	27 90	- 38
MAY	36 73	? ?

JUNE	117	58	?	?
JULY	171	36	?	?
AVERAGE MONTHLY				
ARRIVAL RATE	74	67	?	?
ESTIMATED NUMBER OF				
MONTHLY ARRIVALS				
EVENTUALLY QUALIFYING	74	40	?	?

6. LATER DATA FROM PMP IS NOT AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME, BUT THEY HAVE INFORMED US THAT RATE IS DEFINITELY DOWN. FOR EXAMPLE, IN JULY ONLY APPROXIMATELY FOUR NEW REFUGEES WERE ACCEPTED FOR REGISTRATION AT PMP. INCREASE IN USRP ARRIVALS AT WCC AT LEAST PARTLY DUE SEASONAL FLUCTUATIONS, AS PAST YEARS HAVE SHOWN INCREASES DURING SUMMER TRAVEL SEASON WHEN ARMENIANS ABLE DEPART USSR OBSOBSERVABLY TO VISIT RELATIVES IN LEBANON. IN ADDITION, USRP ARMENIANS HAVE EXCELLENT COMMUNICATIONS WITH BEIRUT ARMENIAN COMMUNITY AND USUALLY ARRIVE IN LARGER NUMBERS IN PERIOD IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING VISIT TO BEIRUT OF INS ATHENS REPRESENTATIVE. DESPITE RAPID INCREASE IN RECENT MONTHS, HOWEVER, AVERAGE RATE OF ARRIVAL IS BY COINCIDENCE PRECISELY SAME AS REPORTED IN REF B. USRP ARRIVALS FOR FIRST HALF OF AUGUST ONLY 60, SHOWING THE BEGINNING OF THE EXPECTED SEASONAL DOWN TREND. WCC NON-USRP ARRIVAL RATE DOWN SIGNIFICANTLY FOR REASONS NOT YET CLEAR.

7. WE TRUST THIS DATA WILL BE REASSURING TO GENEVA. ALTHOUGH THERE TOO MANY VARIABLES TO PERMIT ACCURATE PREDICTIONS, IT MUST BE ENCOURAGING TO NOTE THAT TOTAL NUMBER OF REFUGEES LESS THAN IN PREVIOUS REPORT.

8. BEIRUT IS CONCERNED THAT MUCH OF DEPARTMENT'S AND GENEVA'S CONCERN HAS BEEN FISCAL, NOT RELEVANT TO LEGAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND HUMAN ISSUES AT HAND. CAN DISCRIMINATION BETWEEN CATEGORIES OF REFUGEES BE JUSTIFIED UNDER THE INA? WE ALSO WISH POINT OUT THAT USG FOOTING MAJOR PORTION OF COST FOR NON-USRP REFUGEES THROUGH SPECIAL GRANTS. PROVIDING PRIORITY TO ONE CATEGORY OF REFUGEES WOULD NOT APPEAR TO PROVIDE OVERALL SAVINGS TO USG.
GODLEY

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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TAGS: SREF, LE
To: GENEVA STATE
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